

HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS REPORT

December Livestock Slaughter
Cattle Inventory
Average Prices Received by Farmers
Milk Production

Louisiana Livestock Slaughter

Commercial red meat production in Louisiana during December totaled 1.5 million pounds, unchanged from November but 7 percent above the previous year.

There were 1,100 head of **cattle** slaughtered during December, down 200 head from November and 300 head below the previous year. Average live weight was 826 pounds, down 76 pounds from the previous month and 41 pounds below December 2001. Total live weight, at 887,000 pounds, was 27 percent below the previous month and the previous year.

Calves slaughtered during December totaled 900 head, down 100 head from November but 100 head above the previous year. Live weight averaged 485 pounds, down 5 pounds from November but unchanged from a year ago. Total live weight, at 449,000 pounds, was 12 percent below November but 21 percent above the previous year.

The number of **hogs** slaughtered during December totaled 3,000 head, 400 head above the previous month but 200 head below December 2001. Average live weight was 183 pounds, down 10 pounds from November but 9 pounds above the previous year. Total live weight was 555,000 pounds, up 11 percent from November but unchanged from a year ago.

The number of **sheep** slaughtered during December was 100 head, unchanged from November and the previous year. Live weight averaged 79 pounds, up 9 pounds from the previous month and 7 pounds above the previous year.

United States Livestock Slaughter

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.86 billion pounds in December, up 1 percent from the 3.81 billion pounds produced in December 2001.

December 2001 contained 21 weekdays (including one holiday) and 5 Saturdays. December 2002 contained 22 weekdays (including one holiday) and 4 Saturdays.

Comparing December 2002 with December 2001

Beef production, at 2.11 billion pounds, was slightly below the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.77 million head, down slightly from December 2001. The average live weight was 1,265 pounds, up 9 pounds from December a year ago.

Veal production totaled 18.0 million pounds, 15 percent above December a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 98,300 head, up 16 percent from December 2001. The average live weight was 305 pounds, down 4 pounds from December a year ago.

Pork production totaled 1.72 billion pounds, up 3 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 8.66 million head, 3 percent above December 2001. The average live weight was 268 pounds, unchanged from December a year ago.

Lamb and mutton production, at 18.5 million pounds, was down 3 percent from December 2001. Sheep slaughter totaled 278,500 head, slightly below last year. The average live weight was 133 pounds, down 5 pounds from December a year ago.

January-December red meat production was 47.2 billion pounds, 3 percent above the previous year. Accumulated beef production was up 4 percent from last year; veal was up 1 percent; pork was up 3 percent, and lamb and mutton production was down 3 percent.

Commercial Livestock Slaughter and Meat Production

Item	Louisiana					United States			
	November	December		January - December		December		January - December	
	2002	2001	2002	2001	2002	2001	2002	2001	2002
-----Number, thousand head-----									
Cattle	1.3	1.4	1.1	17.5	17.0	2,779.3	2,772.0	35,369.7	35,731.0
Calves	1.0	0.8	0.9	10.4	9.9	84.6	98.3	1,006.7	1,044.3
Hogs	2.6	3.2	3.0	29.7	27.1	8,419.1	8,658.4	97,961.9	100,261.6
Sheep & Lambs	0.1	0.1	0.1	2.4	2.2	279.6	278.5	3,222.1	3,276.1
-----Total live weight, thousand pounds-----									
Cattle	1,211	1,208	887	14,681	14,624	3,489,696	3,506,477	43,173,790	44,686,546
Calves	509	372	449	5,133	4,932	26,144	29,971	321,859	325,111
Hogs	499	555	555	6,279	5,580	2,255,194	2,316,548	25,863,530	26,562,299
Sheep & Lambs	10	10	8	207	201	38,643	37,117	450,382	436,909
-----Average live weight, pounds-----									
Cattle	902	867	826	839	860	1,256	1,265	1,221	1,251
Calves	490	485	485	494	498	309	305	320	311
Hogs	193	174	183	211	206	268	268	264	265
Sheep & Lambs	70	72	79	86	91	138	133	140	133
-----Million pounds-----									
Red meat	1.5	1.4	1.5	17.1	16.8	3,813.6	3,907.3	45,542.6	47,216.5

Cattle Inventory - January 1

Class	Louisiana		United States	
	2002	2003	2002 ¹	2003
	-----Thousand Head-----		-----Thousand Head-----	
All Cattle and Calves	850	860	96,704	96,106
Beef Cows	466	471	33,118	32,947
Milk Cows	54	49	9,112	9,152
Beef Cow Replacement, Heifers	81	86	5,561	5,608
Milk Cow Replacement, Heifers	11	10	4,060	4,104
Other Heifers	17	17	10,057	9,890
Steers 500 Pounds and Over	24	24	16,790	16,590
Bulls 500 Pounds and Over	32	33	2,244	2,253
Calves, Under 500 Pounds	165	170	15,763	15,563
Cattle on Feed	---	---	13,860	12,196
	2001	2002	2001	2002
Calf Crop	405	415	38,280	38,193

¹Revised

Louisiana Cattle Inventory

All cattle and calves on Louisiana farms as of January 1, 2003 were estimated at 860,000 head, up 1 percent from a year ago. All cows were estimated at 520,000 head, unchanged from a year ago. Louisiana's 2002 **calf crop** was estimated at 415,000 head, up 2 percent from the 2001 calf crop.

Beef cows were estimated at 471,000 head, up 1 percent from January 1, 2002.

Milk cows, at 49,000 head, were down 9 percent from a year ago.

Other cattle inventory estimates and changes from a year ago were:

Beef cow replacement heifers - 86,000 head, up 6 percent.

Milk cow replacement heifers - 10,000 head, down 9 percent.

Other heifers - 17,000 head, unchanged.

Steers 500 pounds and over - 24,000 head, unchanged.

Bulls 500 pounds and over - 33,000 head, up 3 percent.

Calves under 500 pounds - 170,000 head, up 3 percent.

The **number of farm operations with cattle** during 2002 was estimated at 15,000, unchanged from 2001. Included in this total were 590 milk cow operations, and 13,000 beef cow operations.

United States Cattle Inventory

All cattle and calves in the United States as of January 1, 2003, totaled 96.1 million head, 1 percent below the 96.7 million head on January 1, 2002, and 1 percent below the 97.3 million head two years ago. All cows, at 42.1 million, were down slightly from the 42.2 million on January 1, 2002, and down 1 percent from the 42.6 million two years ago.

Beef cows, at 32.95 million head, were down 1 percent from both January 1, 2002, and January 1, 2001.

Milk cows, at 9.15 million head, were up slightly from January 1, 2002, but down slightly from two years ago.

Other class estimates on January 1, 2003, and the change from January 1, 2002 were:

All heifers 500 pounds and over, 19.6 million head, down slightly.

Beef replacement heifers, 5.61 million head, up 1 percent.

Milk replacement heifers, 4.10 million head, up 1 percent.

Other heifers, 9.89 million head, down 2 percent.

Steers weighing 500 pounds and over, 16.6 million head, down 1 percent.

Bulls weighing 500 pounds and over, 2.25 million head, up slightly.

Calves under 500 pounds, 15.6 million head, down 1 percent.

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter in all feedlots, 12.9 million head, down 7 percent.

The combined total of calves under 500 pounds, and other heifers and steers over 500 pounds outside of feedlots, 29.1 million head, up 1 percent.

The 2002 **calf crop** was estimated at 38.2 million head, down slightly from 2001 and down 1 percent from 2000. Calves born during the first half of the year are estimated at 27.9 million, down 1 percent from 2001 and down 2 percent from 2000.

Prices Received Index Up 1 Percent

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in January is 99, based on 1990-92=100, up 1.0 percent from a revised December index. Higher prices for broilers, lettuce, cattle, and hogs more than offset lower prices for wheat, corn, turkeys, and soybeans. The seasonal change in the mix of commodities farmers sell also affects the overall index. Increased marketings of cattle, soybeans, corn and strawberries offset decreased marketings of cotton, tobacco, grapes, and milk.

The preliminary All Farm Products Index is 4.2 percent above January 2002. Higher prices for soybeans, corn, cattle, and wheat more than offset lower prices for lettuce, hogs, broilers, and broccoli.

The Food Commodities Index increased 1.0 percent above last month to 98, 1.0 percent above January last year.

Prices Paid Index Unchanged

The January index of Prices Paid for Commodities and Services, Interest, Taxes, and Farm Wage Rates 126 percent of the 1990-92 average. The index unchanged from December, but 3.3 percent above January 2002. Lower prices in January for feeder cattle, feed grains, milk cows, and feed concentrates were offset by higher prices for herbicides, diesel fuel, nitrogen fertilizers, and feeder pigs.

Average Prices Received by Farmers

Item	Louisiana			United States		
	Entire Month		Preliminary	Entire Month		Preliminary
	January 2002	December 2002	January 2003 ¹	January 2002	December 2002	January 2003 ¹
	-----Dollars-----			-----Dollars-----		
Soybeans, per bushels	4.32	5.43	5.53	4.22	5.46	5.38
Rice, per cwt	4.28	3.90	3.95	4.30	4.13	4.14
Upland Cotton, per pound	.254	.453	2/ .471	.273	.421	2/ .432
Hay, all, baled, per ton	N/A	N/A	N/A	91.70	92.60	92.90
Beef Cattle, per cwt	50.90	45.20	46.70	67.10	70.50	72.60
Steers & Heifers, per cwt	79.60	71.70	74.00	71.20	75.10	77.60
Cows, per cwt	38.60	32.80	35.00	38.00	34.60	35.50
Calves, per cwt	97.10	86.30	90.00	102.00	94.70	95.50
Broilers, live, per pound	N/A	N/A	N/A	.370	.290	.350
Eggs, all, per dozen	N/A	N/A	N/A	.623	.680	.689
Milk, all, per cwt ³	N/A	N/A	N/A	13.40	11.90	11.80

¹Mid-month;

²Based on sales during the first half of the month;

³Before deductions for hauling and government withholdings. Includes bulk tank, quantity, and other premiums. Excludes hauling subsidies.

N/A = Not Available

Louisiana Milk Production

Louisiana dairies produced 128 million pounds of milk during the October-December 2002 quarter, down 12 percent from the same period in 2001. Milk cows averaged 49,000 head during the quarter, down 9 percent from last year.

United States Milk Production

Milk production in the 20 major states during December totaled 12.2 billion pounds, up 1.8 percent from December 2001. November revised production, at 11.7 billion pounds, was up 1.4 percent from November 2001. The November revision represented a decrease of 0.4 percent or 43 million pounds from last month's preliminary production estimate.

Production per cow in the 20 major states averaged 1,567 pounds for December, 18 pounds above December 2001.

The number of cows on farms in the 20 major states was 7.80 million head, 47,000 head more than in December 2001, and 6,000 head more than in November 2002.

The quarterly production of milk for the U.S. was 41.5 billion pounds, 1.7 percent above the October-December period last year. The average number of milk cows in the U.S. during the quarter was 9.15 million head, 43,000 head more than during the same period last year.

Quarterly Milk Production: Selected States, October-December 2001-2002

Selected States	October-December Milk Cows ¹		October-December Milk Production ²	
	2001	2002	2001	2002
	-----Thousands-----		-----Millions-----	
Alabama	21	19	70	63
Arkansas	33	31	96	87
Louisiana	54	49	145	128
Mississippi	34	33	113	107
Oklahoma	88	88	316	316
Tennessee	89	84	320	305
20 Major States ³	7,739	7,791	11,492	11,654
United States	9,105	9,148	40,818	41,511

¹Includes dry cows. Excludes heifers not yet fresh. ²Excludes milk sucked by calves. ³Arizona, California, Florida, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, New Mexico, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Texas, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, Wisconsin.

The Louisiana Farm Reporter (ISSN-0056-7670) is published semi-monthly (Twice a month) by the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry, Louisiana Agricultural Statistics Service, 5825 Florida Blvd, Baton Rouge, LA 70806. Subscription is free to respondents and cooperators, \$10.00 annually to all others, and is available from the above address. Periodicals postage is paid in Baton Rouge, LA and at additional mailing offices. Postmaster: Send changes of address to Louisiana Farm Reporter, P. O. Box 65038, Baton Rouge, LA 70896-5038.

Internet Access:

***For free automatic e-mail subscriptions to this publication go to**

<http://www.nass.usda.gov/sub-form.htm> or visit our homepage at

<http://www.nass.usda.gov/la/>

Louisiana
Agricultural
Statistics
Service
PERIODICALS POSTAGE
JACKSON, MS 39201



Louisiana Agricultural Statistics Service
(225) 922-1362
5825 Florida Blvd., P.O. Box 65038
Baton Rouge, LA 70896-5038